

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

October 14, 2008

We have before us a set of groundbreaking recommendations that will reform education programs in the County's juvenile halls and probation camps. They were developed in close collaboration by the Comprehensive Educational Reform Committee I established, consisting of the key County entities that collectively are responsible for the well-being for more than 27,000 young people involved in the criminal justice system. When I entered the motion to initiate this process in 2007, I challenged the County to look beyond just a narrow focus to "reform" educational services under the current, broken paradigm, and instead look towards ways to actually enhance, improve and increase educational opportunities that is responsive to the needs of each individual young person.

It is clear that effective schools reduce the number of at-risk youth, and reduce the possibility of recidivism. Improved educational opportunities increase the chances of youth being successful in their return to the community. Every chance we have to interact with one of them - especially the 7,000 that are in our direct care - is an opportunity to help get on a track to a meaningful, productive life. As a County, we should demand nothing less. These recommendations represent a significant step forward in meeting our obligation to provide them with the quality education to which they are entitled, and so desperately need.

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YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
BURKE	_____

Los Angeles County must take a strong leadership role in addressing the serious issues impacting the Juvenile Justice system. The Children's Council of Los Angeles County reports on youth in the juvenile justice system indicated that the problems afflicting juvenile justice are inter-related, and so our reform efforts can and must be integrated and inter-related as well, both in process and in outcomes. It is time to move towards comprehensive, systematic reforms to improve the overall prospects of Probation students, and these recommendations are the vehicle by which we can achieve that. We have moved past merely pointing out these pervasive problems over and over to solving them for the benefit of the young people that come under our responsibility.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors approve the Comprehensive Educational Reform Recommendations as presented, and that the Comprehensive Educational Reform Committee, in coordination with the Chief Executive Officer, finalize an implementation schedule to move forward with all 35 recommendations to reform education in the juvenile justice system, identify any additional funding or legislative needs, and report back in 60 days, with subsequent progress reports on a quarterly basis thereafter.

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